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FRANK O'BANNON, Governor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SET FOR U.S. 31 KOKOMO STUDY

(Kokomo) – The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will hold a public information meeting to discuss the ongoing work to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the U.S. 31 Kokomo Corridor improvement project. The EIS is evaluating various alternatives for improving a 12-mile stretch of the roadway from south of State Road 26 to north of U.S. 35.

The meeting will be Wednesday, July 23, at Kokomo High School from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. From 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. visitors can informally view project documents and ask questions of the study team. At 6:00 p.m. there will be a formal presentation on the study. Following the presentation, individuals can offer public comment.

U.S. 31 has been designated as a Statewide Mobility Corridor by INDOT and represents the only continuous transportation link between Indianapolis and north-central Indiana and the City of South Bend. The project team has spent the last several months gathering and documenting traffic, accident and socioeconomic data along the existing U.S. 31 corridor in Kokomo and Howard County. This information was used to develop the foundation for the study – called the Purpose and Need Statement. It defines the transportation problem to be solved. It serves as a guide to developing alternatives and establishing criteria for choosing among them.

The study team also developed preliminary working alternatives during this phase of the EIS process. They will be evaluated in terms of reduction in crash rates and travel time as well as for consistency with INDOT's Long Range Plan for Statewide Mobility Corridors among other criteria as defined by the Purpose and Need Statement.

The Draft Purpose and Need Statement and preliminary alternative maps can be viewed on the project Web site <http://www.us31kokomo.com>.

Another public Information meeting will be scheduled late this year after the screening of preliminary alternatives is completed.

The U.S. 31 Kokomo segment is one of three portions of U.S. 31 now being studied by INDOT for upgrading to freeway standards. The other segments are in Hamilton County, between I-465 and S.R. 38, and in Marshall and St. Joseph Counties between Plymouth and South Bend.

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